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ABSTRACT

Definitions of 33 terms used by state agencies concerning licensing of private and independent colleges are presented. Information was obtained from statutes, rules, and regulations. In an effort to address the question of whether a set of terms and common definitions could be devised for licensing and approval officals, definitions are proposed for the following terms: accreditation, agent, approval, college, degree, instruction, institution, license, minimum standards, operation, out-of-state, ownership, permit, registration, solicitor, surety bond, and university. The proposed definitions are purposely brief with the intent to facilitate communication among officials. A list indicating the states that submitted materials and whether the state agency is concerned with degree-granting or nondegree granting is included. (SW)

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Paper Presented at a Seminar for State Leaders in Postsecondary Education

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR STATE LICENSING/APPROVING AGENCIES

THE FLORIDA BOARD OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
and
THE STATE AND REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
of the
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Revonda Williams and Bonnie Elosser, Researchers

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Education Commission of the States

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SHEEO

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INTRODUCTION

A great deal of concern has been expressed recently concerning a common terminology to be used in the state licensing of private degree granting institutions. In his article, "Ph.D., Anyone?" George Arnstein states ". . .singly and in combination, the various systems of eligibility and approval, accreditation, and recognition tend to leave the educational consumer unprotected because he may not know just what each of these words means. In response to the same problem, The Education Commission of the States, in the Report of the Task Force on Model State Legislation for Approval of Postsecondary Educational Institutions, calls for regulating the use of academic terminology in naming or otherwise designating education institutions. The problem of definition of terms is also mentioned in the Airlie Conference Report: "Approaches to State Licensing of Private Degree-Granting Institutions." The report refers to the set of problems that arises from definition (or lack thereof) of terms used in statutes.

DATA COLLECTION

The terms compiled in this glossary were selected from primary data including statutes, rules and regulations submitted by state agencies involved in licensing private and independent colleges throughout the nation and collected by the Florida State Board of Private and Independent Colleges and the Center for State and Regional Higher Education of the College of Education, The Florida State University. The terms are, for the most part, terms which appear to be significant after examination of material submitted by most of the states.

The following table lists the states that submitted materials and indicates whether the state agency is concerned with degree granting or non-degree granting.

States Which Submitted Materials for Analysis

	DEGREE-GRANTING	NON-DEGREE GRANTING	STATES USED IN COMPILING GLOSSARY
Alabama	none	x	x
Alaska	x	x	
Arizona	none	x	
Arkansas	x		
California			
Colorado	none	x	
Connecticut	x	x	x

	DEGREE-GRANTING	NON-DEGREE GRANTING	STATES USED IN COMPILING GLOSSARY
Delaware		x	
Florida	x	x	x
Georgia	x	x	x
Hawaii			
Idaho		x	
Illinois	x		
Indiana	x	x	
Iowa	none		
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana	none	x	x
Maine	x		
Maryland			
Massachusetts	x		
Michigan		x	
Minnesota	x	x	x
Mississippi	none	x	
Missouri	none		
Montana		x	
Nebraska	none	x	
Nevada	x	x	x
New Hampshire	x	x	x
New Jersey	x	x	x
New Mexico			
New York	x	x	x
North Carolina	x	x	x

	DEGREE-GRANTING	NON-DEGREE GRANTING	STATES USED IN COMPILING GLOSSARY
North Dakota			
Ohio	x	x	x
Okalahoma	none	x	x
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	x	x	x
Rhode Island			
South Carolina	none	x	
South Dakota	x	x	x
Tennessee	x	x	x
Texas	x	x	
Utah	none		
Vermont			
Virginia		x	x
Washington	none	x	
West Virginia			
Wisconsin	none	x	x
Wyoming			

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The following list of terms are defined in the glossary:

1. Accreditation
2. Accreditation Agency
3. Agent
4. Agent's Permit
5. Application
6. Approval
7. Articles of Agreement
8. Authorization
9. Certificate
10. College
11. Degree
12. Diploma
13. Document of Indebtedness
14. Education
15. Educational Credentials
16. Entity
17. Grant
18. Higher Education
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20. Instruction
21 Lending Agency
22. License/Licensure

23. Minimum Standards

24. Offer

25. Operate

26. Ownership

27. Permit

28. Person

29. Postsecondary Education

30. Professional Qualifications

31. Registration

32. Solicitor

33. Surety Bond

GLOSSARY

The terms and definitions most common to state statutes and regulations are given in this glossary. Although there are numbers of common standard used terms in evidence, there are few uniform definitions utilized by the states. At times, it appears that terms have not been explicitly defined in the procedures for licensure and the meaning of such terms can be determined only by the text of the legal authority.

There are definitions for 33 terms in this section. The terms include the following:

Accreditation

1. Accreditation means the formal recognition or acceptance by the Commission of a professional review made periodically as a basis for continued approval.

   (Connecticut)

Accreditation Agency

1. "An accrediting agency recognized by the United States Office of Education" means one of those agencies listed in the current Education Directory, Higher Education.

   (Florida)

2. Accreditation by the appropriate accrediting agency recognized by the United States Office of Education. Accreditation by a recognized, specialized accrediting agency may be accepted as evidence of such compliance only as to the portion or program of an institution accredited by such agency if the institution as a whole is not accredited.

   (North Carolina)

3. For postsecondary vocational education institutions, accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Office of Education may be accepted by the commission as evidence of compliance with the minimum standards establihsed hereunder and the criteria to be established under Section 49-3906 of this chapter; provided, the commission may require such further evidence and make such further investigation as in its judgment may be necessary. Accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency may be accepted as evidence of such compliance only as to the portion or program of an institution accredited by such agency if the institution as a whole is not accredited.

(Tennessee)

For degree-granting postsecondary educational institutions, accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting may be accepted by the commission as evidence of compliance with the minimum standards established hereunder and the criteria to be established under Section 49-3906 of this chapter; provided, the commission may require such further evidence and make such further investigation as in its judgment may be necessary.

(Tennessee)

Agent

1. "Agent" means any natural person owning an interest in, employed by or representing for remuneration a private elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational institution within or outside this state, who holds himself out to residents of this state as representing an elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution for any purpose.

(Nevada)

2. "Agent" means any person owning any interest in, employed by, or representing for remuneration, a postsecondary educational institution outside this state, who, by solicitation in any form made in this state, enrolls or seeks to enroll a resident of this state for education offered by such

institution for any such purpose.

(Tennessee)

3. "Agent" means a person employed by or representing a college within or outside the state to procure Florida students, enrollees, or subscribers by solicitation in any form made at a place or places other than the office or legal place of business of a college.

(Florida)

4. "Agent," "Representative," "Solicitor," "Salesman," "Counselor". . .means: Any employee, owner, or other person who for remuneration, enrolls or seeks to enroll a resident of this State; whether through personal contact, telephone, advertising of any nature, letter, or publication of other printed material, in a course or courses of instruction or study offered or maintained by a private school, or who otherwise holds himself out to the residents of this State as representing a private school for such purpose.

(Oklahoma)

5. "Agent" shall mean any person, whether employed by a private school or operating in his own behalf, or whether acting in behalf of any school located within or outside of this Commonwealth, who shall personally solicit any individual within the Commonwealth to enroll in a school.

(Pennsylvania)

Agent's Permit

1. "Agent's permit" means a nontransferable written authorization issued to a natural person by the board or commission which allows that person to solicity or enroll any resident of this state for education in a private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution.

(Nevada)
(Tennessee)

2. (A) An applicant for an agent's permit shall be an individual of good reputation and character and shall represent only a postsecondary educational institution or institution which meet the minimum standards established.

(Tennessee)

Application

1. Application for a license shall be made to the Proprietary School Commission and shall be issued to each applicant who meets the qualifications set forth in this chapter and such rules and regulations as are established by the Commission in conformity therewith.

(Louisiana)

2. Each postsecondary educational institution desiring to operate in this state shall apply to the commission, upon forms to be provided by the commission. The application shall be accompanied by a catalog or brochure published or proposed to be published by the institution containing the information specified in paragraph (d) of subsection 1 of section 50 of this act, including information required by regulations of the commission. The application shall also be accompanied by evidence of the surety bond and payment of fees specified in section 60 of this act.

(Nevada)

Approval

1. "Approval" means: Action taken by the Director to indicate that the school or agent meets requirements for licensing.

(Oklahoma)

2. A Corporation of higher learning shall be approved if such institution has been evaluated according to procedures and standards established by the Postsecondary Education Commission.

(New Hampshire)

3. No educational institution in the State shall confer any college degree, whether academic, professional or honorary, unless and until such institution has been approved for such purpose by the State Council of Higher Education; provided, that the provision of this section shall not apply to the institutions of higher learning accredited by the State Board of Education for granting of college degrees prior to July one, nineteen hundred sixty-eight, or which have applications pending before the Board for such accreditation, prior to July one, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, nor to any institution specifically authorized by an act of the General Assembly. Any person, firm, association or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, and the granting of each degree in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

(Virginia)

4. No school shall solicit students, or carry on any course of instruction until said school shall have been approved by the board pursuant to the provisions of these rules. No approval shall be issued by the board to any school which denies enrollment in said school to any students, or makes any distinction or classification of students in said school, solely on account of sex, race, color or creed. No course of instruction shall be added to the offerings of any approved school unless said course of instruction shall have first been approved by the board.

(Wisconsin)

5. No school subject to registration shall grant a degree unless such degree is approved by the commission to use the name "college," "academy," "institute," or "university" without approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The Commission shall establish procedures for approval, including notice and opportunity for a hearing if approval is not granted.

(Minnesota)

6. No person shall operate a proprietary school, advertise, solicit for or conduct any course of instruction in Georgia without obraining a Certificate of Approval from the Administration.

(Georgia)

Articles of Agreement

1. A proposal for the purpose of organizing a corporation for the establishment of an institution for postsecondary education or higher learning.

(New Hampshire)

Authorization

1. "Authorization to operate" or like term means approval of the commission to operate or to contract to operate a postsecondary educational institution in this state.

(Florida)

Certificate

1. A certificate shall be granted to any person desiring to establish an institution of higher learning after such person has submitted to the Postsecondary Education Commmission its plans and such plans have been approved.

(New Hampshire)

2. The Administrator may approve the applying school and issue a Certificate of Approval provided the applicant school is found upon investigation to have satisfactorily met the Minimum Standards for Proprietary Schools as set forth in this guide and also have provided assurance and evidence of meeting the following criteria.

(Georgia)

College

1. "College" means any educational facility maintained or conducted by any person, association, partnership, corporation, or trust and operating as an institute, community college, college, university, or entity of whatever kind which furnishes or offers to furnish a degree as defined herein or which furnishes or offers to furnish instruction leading toward, or prerequisite to, an academic degree beyond the secondary level and which requires that, in order to obtain a degree or diploma, the recipient thereof satisfactorily completes appropriate courses or classes or laboratory or research study in person or by correspondence.

(Florida)

2. College means an institution of higher education whose programs satisfy in whole or in part the requirements for a degree at the associate, baccalaureate, and/or graduate level. A junior, community or county college is an institution of higher education which ordinarily offers the associate degree. A senior college ordinarily offers degrees up to the baccalaureate level and may offer graduate degrees.

(New Jersey)

Degree

1. "Degree" means any academic or honorary title of designation, mark, appellation, series of letters, numbers, or words, such as, but not limited to, bachelors, masters, doctorate, or fellow, which signifies, purports, or is generally taken to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of an academic, educational, or professional program of study beyond the secondary school level or for a recognized title conferred for meritorious recognition and associate degree awareded by a community college or other institution in liberal arts which may be used for any purpose whatsoever.

(Florida)

Diploma

1. "Diploma" means a certificate, transcript, report, document, title of designation, mark, appellation, series of letters, numbers, or words which signifies, purports, or is generally taken to signify attendance, progress, or satisfactory completion of the requirements or prerequisite of an academic degree which may be used for any purpose whatsoever.

(Florida)

Document of Indeptedness

1. "Document of indebtedness" means any contract, note, instrument, or other evidence of indebtedness entered into by a resident of this state and a private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution its agent or lending agency specifying the terms of payment for educational services to be provided by any private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution.

(Nevada)

Education

1. "Education" or "educational services" includes any class, course or program of training, instruction or study.

(Nevada)

2. "Education" or "educational services" or like term includes, but is not limited to, any class, course, or program of training, instruction, or study.

(Florida)

Educational Credentials

1. "Educational credentials" means degrees, diplomas, certificates, transcripts, reports, documents or letters of designation, marks, appellations, series of letters, numbers or words which signify, purport to signify or are generally taken to signify enrollment, attendance, progress, or satisfactory completion of the requirements or prerequisites for education at

a private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution.

(Nevada)

Entity

1. "Entity" includes any company, firm, society, association, partnership, corporation and trust.

(Nevada)
(Florida)

Grant

1. "Grant" includes awarding, selling, conferring, bestowing or giving.

(Nevada)
(Florida)

Higher Education

1. Institution of higher education is an institution which offers a program of instruction above the twelfth grade level, and is publicly controlled and operated under statutory provisions, or privately controlled and operated and duly licensed and approved by the State.

(New Jersey)

Higher Learning

1. "Higher learning" means studies which are more advanced or difficult than those prevalently offered in a secondary school and which may be credited toward an academic, professional, vocational, or occupational degree; "degree" means the formal recognition of the completion of a stage of progress or achievement in the pursuit of higher learning, including the associate, bachelor's master's, doctorate, or professional.

(Connecticut)

Instruction

1. "Instruction" means the dissemination of knowledge or practice which signifies, purports, or is generally taken to signify, the preparation or education of a person, generally or specifically, for further understanding, study, skill, or training.

(Florida)

Lending Agency

1. "Lending agency" means:

   a. Any private elementary, secondary or post-secondary educational institution;

   b. Any person controlling, controlled by or held in common ownership with an elementary, secondary or postsecondary institution; or

   c. Any person regularly loaning money to such an educational institution or its students.

(Nevada)

License-Licensure

1. "License" means the written authorization of the board or commission to operate or to contract to operate a private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution.

(Nevada)

2. License means a certificate of authorization to operate issued by the secretary to those post-secondary institutions wishing to solicit for or offer courses of instrcution in the state.

(South Dakota)

3. License or Permit means a non-transferable certificate issued by the State Department to a school located within or without this state in the name of such school, which permits the school to solicit, offer and maintain a course(s) of instruction or study in compliance with

provisions of the act and the rules and regulations of the State Board promulgated to the act.

(Alabama)

4. "License" or "licensure" means the first step toward accreditation, with the approval sometimes being based more upon an evaluation of plans than upon current operations.

(Connecticut)

5. A document issued by the Proprietary School Commission necessary for any proprietary school to do business in the state. All licenses shall expire one year from the date of their issue and application for renewal of license shall be made to the commission not less than thirty days prior to the expiration date thereof. On and after October 1, 1972 no course of instruction shall be established, offered or given, no diploma, degree or other written evidence of proficiency or achievement shall be offered or awarded, and no student enrollment in such course of instruction shall be solicited through advertising, agents, mail circulars, or other means until the owner of the school planning to offer or offering such course of instruction, diplomas or degrees has obtained a license from the commission; provided, however, that courses, classes or programs in progress on October 1, 1971 may continue until completed.

(Louisiana)

6. Every applicant shall submit an application for licensure of a private school or registration of a private business school, upon forms provided by the Commissioner, together with such other information as he may require including applications for approval of curricula or courses of study, quarters or facilities, director's licenses and teacher's licenses, and documentation of adequacy of resources. The application shall be accompanied by the statutory fee of $100.00.

(New York)

7. No school as defined by the Act and these Rules and Regulations, or proprietor thereof, shall solicit students, do business in, or operate in Alabama without first obtaining a permit (or license) as required by the Act. A permit will be granted when it has been determined by the Alabama State Approving Agency that the school is in compliance with the minimum standards and Rules and Regulations as previously set forth.

(Alabama)

8. Certificate of Licensure. If the action of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is approved, the section in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina reporting this action will be extracted and signed by the Secretary of The University and forward to the president of the institution. This extract will serve as the official certification of licensure authorizing the institution to grant degrees as specified.

(North Carolina)

Minimum Standards

1. The minimum legal requirements (as provided in the chapter for the establishment and operation of nonpublic colleges) will protect the individual student from deceptive, fraudulent, or sub-standard education; protect the nonpublic institutions; and protect the citizens of this state holding diplomas or degrees.

(Oklahoma)

2. Minimum standards concern the quality of education, ethical and business practices, health and safety, and fiscal responsibility, to protect against substandard, transient, unethical, deceptive or faudulent institutions and practices.

(Tennessee)

3. The Board shall fix minimum standards for private schools, which shall include standards for courses of instruction, training, qualifications of instructors financial stability, advertising practices, and refund of tuition and fees paid

by students for courses of instruction or training not completed, and shall adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the implementation of such minimum standards for the operation of private schools.

(Oklahoma)

Offer

1. "Offer" includes, in addition to its usual meanings, advertising, publicizing, soliciting or encouraging any person, directly or indirectly in any form, to perform the act described.

(Nevada)

Operate

1. "Operate" means to establish or maintain any facility in this state from or through which education or educational credentials are offered or granted, and includes contracting with any person, group or entity for the purpose of providing education or educational credentials.

(Nevada)

Postsecondary Education

1. "Postsecondary education" means the education or educational services offered to persons who have completed or terminated their elementary and secondary education or who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance for the attainment of academic, professional or vocational objectives.

(Nevada)
(Tennessee)

2. Degree granting postsecondary educational institution includes academic and vocational institutions offering education or training above high school level and where the institution awards degrees or similar credentials such associate, bachelors, masters, specialist

or doctoral degrees.

(Tennessee)

3. Postsecondary vocational educational institutions that offer a two year associate degree in business shall be designated as "Vocational Jr. Colleges of Business." Trade and technical schools that offer a two year associate degree in technology shall be designated as "Vocational Technical Institutes."

(Tennessee)

4. "Postsecondary educational institution" means an academic, vocational, technical, home study, business, professional or other school, college, or university, or any person offering educational credentials or educational services, but does not include any institution established or maintained under the laws of this state, another state or the federal government at the public expense. It includes all school grades above the twelfth grade.

(Nevada)

Out-of-State

1. "Out-of-state college" or "college outside the state" means any college where the place of instruction or legal place of residence or the place of evaluation of instruction or work by correspondence is not within the legal boundaries of this state.

(Florida)

Ownership

1. "Ownership" means ownership of a controlling interest in a private elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational institution or ownership of a controlling interest in the legal entity owning or controlling the institution.

(Nevada)

Permit

1. No solicitor representing any school offering any course or course of instruction shall sell any course or course of instruction or solicit students thereof in this state for a consideration or remuneration, except upon the actual business premises of the school, unless he first secures a solicitor's permit from the board. If the solicitor represents more than one school, a separate permit shall be obtained for each school represented by him. A solicitor's permit shall be valid for one year from the date issued.

(Wisconsin)
(South Dakota)

2. No school, except those enumerated in Section 4 of this act, shall operate within this state unless said school first secures a permit from the Alabama State Department of Education.

(Alabama)

3. Upon approval of the application for a permit, the commission shall issue a permit in the form of a pocket card to the solicitor, giving his name, address, permit number, and the name and address of his employing school, and certifying that the person whose names appears on the card is an authorized solicitor of the school. Each permit shall be valid for one year from the date on which it is issued. No person shall sell any course of instruction or solicit students therefor in this state unless he first applies for and obtains a permit as a solicitor from the commission. Upon recommendation by the commission and the State Superintendent of Education, the State Board of Education shall issue such permits. The fee for each permit and each renewal thereof shall be five dollars. If the solicitor represents more than one school, he shall obtain a separate permit for each school he represents.

(Louisiana)

Person

1. "Person" includes a company, partnership, association, corporation or other entity as well as a natural person.

(Nevada)

Professional Qualifications

1. "Professional qualifications" refers to that combination of formal higher education, with appropriate degrees and professional experience, that best fits the assigned responsibilities of the professional staff member.

(Pennsylvania)

Registration

1. Registration means the process by which a school (pursuant to section 3) files an application, submits required information and pays fees. Private College Registration Act - relates to education; higher education coordinating commission; providing procedure for the annual registration. As a basis for registration, schools shall provide the commission with such information as the commission needs to determine the nature and activities of the school, including but not limited to, requirements for admission, enrollments, tuition charge, refund policies, curriculum, degrees granted, and faculty employed. The commission shall have the authority to verify the accuracy of the information submitted to it by inspection or other means it deems necessary.

(Nebraska)

2. Registration means approval of a course of study (curriculum) in an institution of post-secondary education. Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require that every curriculum offered by institutions of post-secondary education be registered.

3. Every such school shall be required to register with the commissioner and shall not be permitted to operate unless it receives a certificate of approval issued by the commissioner under rules of the state board.

(New Jersey)

Solicitor

1. "Solicitor" means a person employed by or representing a school either located within or outside this state who, in places other than the actual business permises of the school, personally attempts to secure the enrollment of a student in such school, whether or not the intended result of such direct contact is the actual signing of an enrollment agreement.

(Wisconsin)

2. A person who solicits business for a proprietary school or who offers to sell or sells in this state any instruction or course of instruction offered by a proprietary school.

(Louisiana)
(Wisconsin)

Surety Bond

1. The surety bond furnished to the board by a solicitor may be continuous and shall be conditioned to provide indemnification to any student suffering loss as the result of any fraud or misrepresentation used in procuring his enrollment or as a result of the failure of the school to faithfully perform the agreement made with him by the solicitor, and may be supplied by the solicitor or by the school itself as a blanket bond covering each of its solicitors in the amount of $1,000.00.

(Wisconsin)

2. Each license application must also be accompanied by a surety bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars issued by a surety authorization to do business in Louisiana.

(Louisiana)

3. At the time application is made for an agent's permit, a license to operate or for a license renewal, the commission shall require the postsecondary educational institution making the application to file with the commission a surety bond in the sum of not less than $5,000. The bond shall be executed by the applicant as principal and by a surety company as surety. The bond shall be payable to the State of Nevada and shall be conditioned to provide indemnification to any student, enrollee or his parent or guardian, determined by a final judgment to have suffered damage as a result of any act by the postsecondary educational institution which is a violation of the Postsecondary Educational Authorization Act. The bonding company shall provide indemnification upon receipt of written notice of such judgment. The bond may be continuous, but regardless of the duration of the bond the aggregate liability of the surety shall not exceed the penal sum of the bond.

(Nevada)

4. Said application shall also be accompanied by evidence of a surety bond as required by this chapter, and payment of the fees specified herein.

(Tennessee)

5. Any license, approval or renewal issued by the State Board shall be contingent upon the applicant filing with the State Board a surety bond executed by a recognized insurance company in the sume of $10,000 made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the contractual rights of students. Said bond shall be in the form as required by the State Board. An

applicant for renewal of license or approval shall also file with the application evidence of payment of renewal premium of the bond. The State Board reserves the right unto itself to increase or decrease the penal sum of the bond at any time in the license year, if in its judgment and discretion the number of students enrolled and the advance tuition fees collected by any applicant warrant such an increase or decrease.

DISCUSSION

After surveying the terminology contained in the state statutes and regulations supplied by respondents, it is important to question whether a set of terms and common definitions could be devised for licensing and approval officials. In an effort to reconcile this question, the following list is provided for analysis and discussion.

1. Accreditation

   Formal recognition or acceptance by an agency recognized by the U.S. Office of Education

2. Agent

   Any person owning an interest in, employed by or representing for remuneration a private college or institution for any purpose.

3. Approval

   The authorization given to an educational program by a state agency (designated by the veterans administration) based upon meeting criteria, which enables certain enrollees to request financial benefits for the veterans administration.

4. College

   Any nonpublic education facility maintained or conducted by any person, association, partnership, corporation or trust and operating as a junior college, college or university which furnishes or offers to furnish a degree requiring more than 18 quarter or 12 semester hours in liberal arts or general education.

5. Degree

   Any academic or honorary title or designation,

such as, but not limited to diploma, certificate, bachelors, masters, doctorate or fellow.

6. Instruction

The dissemination of knowledge or practice which signifies preparation or education of a person for further study, skill or training.

7. Institution

Any nonpublic facility maintained or conducted by any person, association, partnership, corporation or trust and operating as a non-collegiate postsecondary business, trade, technical, or vocational institution.

8. License

The authorization given to a college or institution (not holding an accredited status) by a state agency, based upon meeting criteria, to operate.

9. Minimum Standards

The criteria established by a state, through statute and regulation, which are prerequisite for the attainment of a license.

10. Operation

Establishing or maintaining any facility in a state from or through which educational instruction is offered or a degree is granted, and includes contracting with any person, group or entity for any purpose.

11. Out-of-State

Any college or institution not chartered as a domestic corporation by the state.

12. Ownership

Possessing the controlling interest in a non-public institution or college.

13. Permit

The authorization by a state agency for a person to operate as an agent within the state.

14. Registration

The requirement that basic demographic data must be filed by colleges and institutions with an educational agency of the state.

15. Solicitor

Synonymous with agent.

16. Surety bond

A sum of money to provide indemnification to any student attending an institution or college and suffering a specific financial loss.

17. University

Synonymous with colleges.

These definitions are purposefully brief and designed to facilitate communication among officials.